United Nations A/68/771–S/2014/129

General Assembly / Security Council

Distr.: General
27 February 2014

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 34
Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 25 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, dated 25 February 2014, in reaction to the illegal activities of Russian occupation troops along the administrative boundary line of Georgia's occupied Tskhinvali region (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kaha **Imnadze**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 25 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia in reaction to the illegal activities of Russian occupation troops along the administrative boundary line of Georgia's occupied Tskhinvali region

[Tbilisi, 25 February 2014]

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia is deeply concerned by the resumption of the illegal activities of Russian occupation forces along the occupation line in the Tskhinvali region of Georgia. In the last few days, the Russian occupation troops have resumed the erection of barbed wire fences in areas close to the villages of Ghogheti and Atotsi (Kareli district). It needs to be considered that the installation of such fences in the occupied Tskhinvali region had been suspended for the past two weeks.

Regrettably, and despite numerous calls by the international community, the Russian Federation is continuing to violate the fundamental principles of international law as well as the commitments it undertook under the 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia strictly condemns Russia's illegal actions, which have a negative impact on the humanitarian situation of the local population and significantly restrict their internationally recognized rights, including the right to free movement, to education in their native language, and other economic, cultural and social rights. Unfortunately, the local population has been prevented from carrying out agricultural work and gaining access to cemeteries and emergency medical services.

The critical nature of the situation in Georgia's occupied regions and adjacent areas once again underlines the importance of the need to establish international mechanisms for monitoring security and human rights therein.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia calls upon the international community to adequately assess the current situation in Georgia's occupied territories, and to undertake effective measures to put a stop to Russia's illegal activities.